

occupy that portion of the Mississippi Delta between Memphis and New Orleans, where all of this really got started. We are very glad to be here, but we offer a special thank you to you, my friend, and to you, Peggy. We've got a little expression of our thanks here. Bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks he referred to musician Wynton Marsalis; Richard C. Notebaert, chairman and chief executive officer, Ameritech Corp., and his wife, Peggy; and Senator John D. Rockefeller IV and his wife, Sharon. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks on Departure for Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

July 29, 1999

National Economy and Proposed Appropriations Legislation

Good morning. Before I leave for Sarajevo, I'd like to say just a word about our country's continuing prosperity and what we have to do to keep it going.

It was 6 years ago this summer that America made a visionary decision to set a new course for our economy; to abandon the large deficits and high unemployment of the previous 12 years; and to pursue an economic strategy of fiscal discipline, investing in our people, and expanding trade in American goods and services abroad. The strategy is working and has lifted our Nation to an unprecedented level of prosperity.

Now we have nearly 19 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment rate in 29 years, the highest homeownership ever. From a \$290 billion deficit in 1993, we're moving toward a record high surplus of \$99 billion in 1999.

The Senate is about to make a pivotal choice—whether to move forward with a sound strategy that led us to this point, or to return to the reckless policies that threw our Nation into stagnation and economic decline. Congress must decide whether to invest our surplus, to honor our obligations to the future—saving Social Security and Medicare, continuing to invest in education, and paying down the debt—or to squander the

surplus on a shortsighted, irresponsible, overlarge tax plan.

The right choice for me is clear, putting first things first. First, we must maintain our strategy of fiscal discipline and seize this moment to address the large, long-term challenges of the Nation. We must dedicate the bulk of the surplus to saving Social Security and to strengthening Medicare and modernizing its benefits with a prescription drug package. I have proposed a balanced budget that honors these values. It upholds our commitments to educating our children, protecting our environment, promoting biomedical research, strengthening defense, and fighting crime.

The Republican majority, it appears, is determined, however, to pass this large and risky tax cut. It would exhaust our surplus without: one, devoting a penny to lengthening the life of the Social Security Trust Fund; two, devoting a penny to lengthening the life of the Medicare Trust Fund; three, it would force huge cuts in education, agriculture, the environment, defense, biomedical research, indeed, everything we are doing to strengthen our country if we are going to stay on a balanced budget.

If those cuts are not made, it would cause us to revert to the dark, old days of huge deficits, high interest rates, low economic growth, and stagnation. We tried it that way for 12 years, and it didn't work.

As the Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, told the Senate yesterday, this tax cut will cut into the surplus and, quote, "risk a great deal of good to the economy."

So I say to Congress, if you send me a tax cut that shortchanges America's priorities and our children's future, I will veto it. Let me be clear again: I do strongly support tax cuts, but not if they are so large they undermine our strength and they undermine our ability to save Social Security, to strengthen and modernize Medicare, and to get this country out of debt for the first time since 1835.

My balanced budget contains targeted tax cuts to help ordinary families with retirement savings, child care costs, long-term care costs. It is responsible in size. This debate is not about whether we should have tax cuts; it's about how big they should be and what else

this country has to do and whether we want to go back to a failed economic strategy after being so richly rewarded for doing the right thing for our children and our future.

I hope, again that we can get a bipartisan agreement that will save Social Security, save and reform Medicare, continue to invest in education, and get this country out of debt. If we do those big things first, there's still money left for a good size tax cut. But what is being done now is wrong.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Statement on the United States Military Aircraft Tragedy in Colombia

July 29, 1999

I am deeply saddened by the loss of five U.S. Army personnel in southern Colombia, who perished in the crash of a U.S. military aircraft providing reconnaissance support for combined U.S.-Colombian counterdrug operations against illicit traffickers. Also lost in this tragedy were two Colombian military personnel.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our service members' families and friends as they cope with this tragic loss. These dedicated Americans and their Colombian comrades were engaged in the vital work of combating the drug trade, which threatens the welfare and security of both our nations.

We honor their commitment and remember their sacrifice as we intensify our efforts here in this country and around the world to counter the global drug problem.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Terrorists Who Threaten To Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process

July 29, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emer-

gency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 29, 1999.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 30.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Balkan Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

July 30, 1999

The President. Let me, first of all, say that I appreciate very much the leadership of President Jelavic, President Izetbegovic, President Radisic, and the other leaders here in putting together this stability conference. It's a real tribute to the progress made in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the last couple of years that they could host this conference. And I want to emphasize that with all the work we still have to do here, there has been a great deal of effort, thanks to the leaders, in increasing cooperation in political and economic ways. The economy is beginning to grow briskly again. And I am committed to doing what I can to see that the United States remains a good partner, with this nation and with the European Union, in continuing to work toward the future.

Secondly, I want to compliment the European Union in taking the lead in our efforts here to do a Stability Pact for the Balkans, beginning in Kosovo. Secretary Albright was in Kosovo yesterday, and we think things are moving in the right direction there. And I want to reaffirm our commitment to do our part there.

But I think the larger, important point to be made is, we want to promote the integration of all the democracies within the region and then the integration of the region with Europe. And anything I can do to assist that, I am prepared to do.

So I think this is a very important day, and I would hope it is a very proud day for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina because of their hosting this meeting and because of what it means for the future.

Multiple Shooting in Atlanta

Q. Mr. President, I wonder if you would share some thoughts about what happened in Atlanta, if you've been brought up to speed, and what could have been done or should have been done, and if there are any lessons to be learned from this?

The President. Well, I think it's too soon to draw conclusions about that. I watched the reports from home last night on CNN for an hour before I went to bed, and I've gotten, obviously, the final reports today. Our thoughts today primarily are with the families of the victims and with those that are still struggling for their lives in the hospitals.

I am pleased with the work that the Federal authorities have done. The Vice President has been back home coordinating that, and I think we have done a good job of working with the State and local officials. But in terms of what could have, should have been done and what this means for other issues, I think we have to wait until all the facts are in. I don't believe I have enough to make a judgment on that.

Balkan Peace Process

Q. As far as the situation in the Balkans is concerned, there's been a lot of concern expressed about, here in Bosnia, that it's been done the wrong way, and that reconstruction in Kosovo, they should learn the lessons of what the mistakes were in Bosnia and try not to repeat those mistakes in Kosovo. What should have been done in Bosnia and what should be done in Kosovo now to make sure that those mistakes aren't repeated?

The President. If you ask these leaders, I'm sure they would say we should do more and do it faster. But I want to say, I believe that, if you remember where we were in Bosnia—keep in mind, here we had 250,000 people killed. You know, they've done a remarkable, astonishing job of rebuilding Sarajevo. It doesn't even look like the same place I visited 2 years ago. And I compliment you.

But we had 250,000 people killed. We had 2.5 million refugees. The conflict went on for more than 4 years. And in the time since 1995, look at the level of cooperation here: You now have a common currency; we have other common institutions; we have opposition political parties, we have, last year, very brisk economic growth. We have a lot more to do. But I think the people who are overly critical should come here and look and see.

In Kosovo, we were able to act more quickly because the facts were different. And so I hope we'll be able to turn it around more quickly. But I think the work being done by these leaders in Bosnia shows us what can be done if we work together and if the international community is properly supportive. And I think the leadership, the initiative of the EU in setting up this Stability Pact, is a good sign and should be encouraging to people.

Supreme Allied Commander Europe

Q. Do you think General Wesley Clark was treated properly in the way he was told about his early retirement?

The President. I'm not sure what the facts are. I can tell you this: Any inference that it amounts to an early retirement or that somebody was disappointed in his performance is just simply wrong, just flat out wrong. We actually extended his term of service as Supreme Allied Commander of NATO and asked him to serve another year.

And it's a very complicated challenge, as you implied in your former question, for us to do the right thing, so we have to get an equally strong person to come in behind him. And we wanted General Ralston to go, and under the military rules, he has to take up another post within 60 days of the termination of his present post, or he would have to retire. So that in order to have the right continuity, it has to be about a 2-month adjustment there. And that's all this is about.

I was, myself, a little distressed about the way it broke, and how it did, because of the inference that many people drew. But that is literally all there is to it. I think Wes Clark's done a terrific job. As you know, I've known him for 30 years. I have great confidence in him, and his strength and determination were very important to the outcome of what

happened not only in Kosovo but, earlier, his pivotal role in the peace process coming in Bosnia. So I don't think anyone should have any doubt about that.

So I'm disturbed about the way it became public. I don't know that—because I think it opens the way to an inference that is absolutely false on my part. I have the highest regard for him, but I want to make sure that when he's gone we have the highest quality successor, and that's why I wanted Joe Ralston in there.

That's all there is to this. It's just a question of working out the transition within the rules of military retirements and reassignments. That's all there is. There is nothing else.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:42 a.m. in Room A 103 at Zetra Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Presidency Member (Croat) Ante Jelavic, Presidency Member (Muslim) Alija Izetbegovic, and Presidency Chairman (Serb) Zivko Radisic of Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, USAF, Vice chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement to the Stability Pact Summit in Sarajevo

July 30, 1999

We are meeting in Sarajevo conscious that we have come to the end of the most turbulent decade in Europe since the 1940s. I am grateful to our Bosnian hosts and to President Ahtisaari for making this important Summit possible.

Ten years ago, more than 300 million people who lived to the east of the old Iron Curtain won the right to shape their destiny. And together we set out to build a Europe that would be, for the first time in its history, undivided, democratic and at peace. We knew the opportunity was there, and that from St. Petersburg to Sofia, millions of courageous people wanted to seize it. But we also knew that the collapse of the old order could just as easily give rise to bloodshed and chaos if a new community based on democracy, tolerance and law did not rapidly take its place.

Ten years later, Germany is united. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are in NATO. The Baltic nations are models of

free market and democratic reform. Most of the nations of southeast Europe have chosen democracy and integration and supported, at great risk and cost, our effort to bring stability to the Balkans. Russia has faced perhaps the most difficult legacy of all with great resilience, and a determination to keep building a normal, prosperous and open society.

Across most of central and southeastern Europe, the progress of open societies and open markets has exceeded our most optimistic hopes. But what has happened here in the former Yugoslavia has confirmed our most terrible fears. A decade long campaign by Mr. Milosevic to carve out a greater Serbia has left more than a quarter of a million people dead, uprooted millions more, and undermined the stability of this entire region. It has shocked our conscience, tested our resolve, threatened the region's progress and the values on which we want a new Europe to be built.

That is why NATO and its partners acted, first in Bosnia, now in Kosovo. But stopping the destruction is not enough. We cannot say our job is finished when refugees are returning to shattered lives. We cannot pretend our work is done when Serbia is still ruled by leaders who maintain power by manipulating ethnic differences, living off corruption, and threatening their neighbors. We cannot pretend our victory is complete when the people of a vast region of Europe are still suffering from the disruption brought about by a decade of violence.

At the NATO summit in Washington, when the outcome of the conflict was not yet clear, many of us came together to begin discussing these challenges. It is far more significant that we are meeting now when the immediate danger is over. The unity that helped us win the war has endured to help us win the peace.

We are here today with two basic principles in mind.

First, Sarajevo cannot be like the Balkan conferences of Europe's past, where great powers met to carve up the map and decide the fate of weaker nations. The nations of southeast Europe are taking the lead, telling us their needs and determining their destiny. And none of us have any interest in redrawing borders. On the contrary, our goal is the